

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 18-34 are in the present application. It is submitted that the claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner and are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. No changes have been made to the claims, as presented herein.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 21-25 and 28-33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants have decided not to amend these claims at this time.

Claims 18-19, 26, 27, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Nobakht et al. (U.S. Patent 5,692,011).

Applicant previously argued that Nobakht does not disclose a single component for calculating weights using the reliability of both the input data and the output data as required in the present claims. In response, the Examiner asserts that applicant has not claimed that a single component uses both reliabilities. (Response to Arguments) However, the present claims recite a “real-time learning portion [i.e. a single component] configured to learn the processing method in real time using the reliability of the input data calculated by said input-data evaluator and the reliability of the output data calculated by said output-data evaluator.” (Claim 18; Claims 26 and

34 contain similar limitations) Hence, the present invention clearly claims a single component [i.e. the real-time learning portion] using both reliabilities. Moreover, this feature is clearly shown in Figure 7, wherein the present invention's weight calculation section 15 (i.e. a single component) uses both the reliability of the input data (from 12) and the reliability of the output data (from 13) to calculate the weight data W.

To meet this limitation, the Examiner contends that in Nobakht's Figure 5, the feed back filter is analogous to the claimed "real-time learning portion," the error signal $e1(k)$ is analogous to the "reliability of the input data," and the error signal $e2(k)$ is analogous to the "reliability of the output data.

Applicants respectfully assert that Nobakht's error signals $e1(k)$ and $e2(k)$ are not the same as the present invention's reliabilities. While these error signals may be used in determining reliabilities, they do not (without further processing) represent reliability values.

Regardless, Nobakht's feed back filter does not directly receive both $e1(k)$ and $e2(k)$. Hence, Nobakht does not disclose a single component for calculating weights using the reliability of both the input data and the output data as required in the present claims. Also, it is not clear whether Nobakht's feed back filter "learns the processing method in real time" as required in the present claims. Unfortunately, Applicants are unable to find any description of Nobakht's Figure 5 in the disclosure to provide support for the Examiner's assertions.

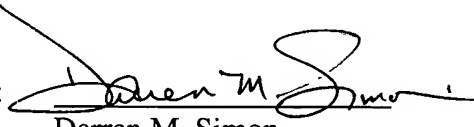
Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Nobakht fails to anticipate the present invention and the rejected claims should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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